

**Tribal Transportation Planning Organization Meeting**  
**January 23, 2008**  
**Heathman Lodge – Vancouver, WA**

- I. Welcome and Invocation – Jim Longley, TTPO Vice-Chairman and the Cowlitz Tribal Drum Group** – Opening prayer & blessing was presented by the Cowlitz Tribal Drum Group.
- II. Cowlitz Tribal Transportation Issue: Columbia River Crossing - Mike Iyall,** Director of Natural Resources – Transportation and the Cowlitz Tribal Council Vice-Chairman, described the Tribe's Columbia River Crossing project. This large project involves a new bridge over the Columbia River. The construction site includes an historical gathering & trade center that dates back to "pre-contact" times which is common to many Tribes of the area. A re-alignment of Interstate 5 over a bridge structure promises to be very culturally sensitive.

**III. Approve Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the meeting in Puyallup, October 2, 2007, as submitted via email was made by Michael Cardwell, and seconded by Brian Clark. Motion Carries.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. SWAT Team Notes – 11/14/07**

Jim Longley summarized the key topics as noted in the November 14, 2007 TTPO meeting discussions as follows:

1. Prepare for and schedule a meeting with Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond
2. Discuss future MPO/RTPO participation at TTPO
3. Complete the TTPO work plan for submission to WSDOT headquarters by mid-summer 2008
4. Develop and implement a numbering system for TTPO resolutions
5. Discuss TTPO Joint Meetings
6. Track Tribal participation in Gas Tax rebate program. There are currently 8 Tribes with signed compacts with Washington State including Puyallup, Squaxin Island, Spokane, Swinomish, Nooksack, Port Gamble, Skokomish and Suquamish.
7. Prepare a TTPO "Statement of Principles"
8. Plan for the 2008 Tribal/State Transportation Biennial Conference

## **V. Western Federal Lands Highway Division**

Clara Conner, Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD) Programs Division Engineer, heads a five state division responsible for roads on federal lands. This division includes the following roads programs:

1. Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) – This program has the largest budget in the division and serves all federally recognized Tribes.
2. Coordinated Technical Information Program (CTIP) – Identifies technologies that would benefit Tribal roads programs
3. Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Lands (ERFO) – Federally owned lands in our area usually incur storm related damages. The goal of this program is to quickly get funding to repair roads and restore service.

Clara stressed the WFLHD's goal is to partner with the 29 Washington tribes to bring resources to the table for improving transportation in Indian Country. She also re-affirmed her agency's commitment to the TTPO and offered her department's services to assist Tribes.

Jonathan Ciesla, Quinault, requested further discussion on how to improve communications with federal agencies. Colleen Jollie mentioned that Gordon James would be presenting a training regarding "how Tribes work" to WFLHD next week.

## **VI. WSDOT – SWRO Planning Program & Part**

Jack Burkman, WSDOT's Planning Manager at the Southwest Regional Office (SWRO) gave an overview of the SWRO's responsibilities, staff, partners and funding. He explained that WSDOT is now a gubernatorial cabinet agency (vs. reporting to the Traffic Commission) so project planning and funding are subject to scrutiny and approval by the governor. The WSDOT budget is also subject to review and approval directly by the governor.

Jack was asked about how Tribes find out about WSDOT project planning? In response he advised that Tribes refer to WSDOT consultation protocol re: cultural resources. He noted that planning activities do not require formal consultation but that both PS&E and construction projects do require formal consultation.

## **VII. Crash Data**

Dan Davis from the WSDOT Transportation Data Office spoke about their collision report data form and the State data repository. Data collected and entered into this system is usually available to the public approximately 60 days post-crash via the WSDOT website under "Collision DataMart". This information is useful in making data-based decisions vs. "gut feeling" decisions regarding safety and/or engineering improvements to the highway system.



Dan listed current roadblocks to collecting Tribal land collision data:

1. Lack of Tribal land road maps
2. Ineffective reporting forms, i.e., collision information is submitted WSP or citizen report forms and don't indicate the Tribal location
3. WSP officers need to complete forms
4. Tribes not using state reporting forms

Marcia Marsh, WSP Strategic & Tactical Analysis Division, Field Operations Bureau, identified patterns & trends helpful in predicting potential future outcomes to assist in resource allocation decisions. Marcia offered to work with the Tribal Police Chiefs Association in using the correct reporting form.

It was suggested that Traffic Safety be addressed as a topic for the next Tribal/State transportation conference.

### **VIII. Tribal/State Fuel Tax Compacts**

Paul Johnson, Fuel Tax Manager for the Department of Licensing (DOL), talked about the how Tribes are currently working with DOL to negotiate fuel tax compacts. In order to negotiate a fuel tax compact, a Tribe must be Federally recognized and have a gas station that is located on trust or reservation land.

Fuel tax refunds are processed based on individual agreements between DOL and the individual Tribe. These agreements currently exist in one of three formats:

1. Most Tribal agreements, prior to the 5/15/07 legislation, were based on per capita
2. Most Tribal agreements after 5/15/07, involve a 75% tax exemption and a 25% state tax collection
3. Only one Tribe processed its fuel tax refund based on Tribal gas sales

\* Paul's contact information - 360-664-1844 and P.O. Box 9228, Olympia, WA. 98507

### **IX. Tribal/State Transportation Conference – 2008**

This year the conference will be held at the "Sleeping Lady" resort in Leavenworth, WA on October 27-30, 2008. The following people have volunteered to help Colleen plan for this meeting: Brian Clark, Colville; Ken Stocks, Kalispel; Jonathan Ciesla, Quinault; and, Megan Nicodemus, WSDOT.

### **X. TTPO Work Plan – see reference to this topic under "Old Business – SWAT Team Notes"**

### **XI. IRR Bridge Program**

Tribes are encouraged to participate in this program. Currently funds are not being fully expended. Tribal transportation planners are encouraged to call Joe Bonga, PAO, to get bridges on the list.

## **XII. IRR Coordinating Committee**

As a member of the IRR Coordinating Committee, Kirk Vinish explained that this committee was mandated as a part of the existing federal transportation law, SAFETEA-LU. Funding for the IRR is included within this law and so the IRRCC was developed as an advisory body under SAFETEA-LU.

The current status of the formula discussion includes comments from Mid-west Tribes who want to change the formula again. Originally, the BIA changed the funding formula which affected all Tribal allocations. IRRCC has asked for models that indicate how a formula change would affect Tribes. The question before the IRRCC now is: Should county roads included in Tribal inventories get funded at 100% or only get the Federal share, approximately 20%, of the STP funds?

Kirk asked for Tribal planner input re: which model to support. He will send a full text description of the proposed models after the IRRCC meeting next week in Albuquerque, NM. He also stressed the following issues, especially important to the Northwest Tribes:

1. Tribe need complete inventory submission that are accepted & generating funds
2. BIA – add a dedicated RIFDS tech in each BIA regional office to input data
3. Change line of authority between Albuquerque and the regional BIA offices to allow better communication

**NOTE:** The IRRCC will be meeting in the Northwest in May 2008. Do we have a host Tribe? Also, need to choose a meeting site, close to the airport in either Seattle or Portland to accommodate this meeting. Tribal leader participation is important to ensuring that the voice of Northwest Tribes is heard. AND, issue papers/letters from the Tribal Councils, with comments addressed to the IRRCC, are necessary to be read to and entered into the public record the morning of the first day.

Email IRCC issues to Kirk. Michigan TTAP website has complete record of agenda/minutes/docs, etc.

## **XIII. Good of the Order**

1. Agenda Item for next meeting in April: For consideration for SAFETEA-LU 2, how can we alter TTAM to get more money to the N.W. Tribes?
2. Tribal Transit - TTPO to serve as technical advisor to Senator Murray's office on transportation issues.



3. Planning Scholarship - Michael Cardwell stated that at the last Tribal/State conference we raised scholarship funds for Tribal planners. Can we have a raffle to raise funds to add to "Joe Del La Cruz Fund" offered by the Evergreen State College? Yes, Michael Cardwell to coordinate this effort.
4. Guardrail Inspection Course – Kyle Kitchell, FLHD, announced this course will take place February 5, 2008.
5. American Planning Association Meeting - March 8, 2008 in Spokane, WA. Kelvin Frank, Muckleshoot, will attend as TTPO representative. The APA will include a TTPO session at their statewide meeting in October.
6. Next Meeting – April 2008, specific date to-be-determined. Two offers to host the meeting were considered as follows: Samish in Anacortes or Makah in Neah Bay.

**Meeting adjourned** by TTPO Chairman, Kirk Vinish.

It is a very common mistake to think that the only way to get a good education is to go to a good school. In fact, the best education is the one that you get from the people around you. The people who are most likely to give you a good education are the people who are most interested in you. They are the people who will help you to learn and to grow.

Education is not a thing that you can buy. It is a thing that you can earn. You earn it by working hard and by learning from the people who are around you. Education is a thing that you can share. You share it with the people who are around you. Education is a thing that you can use. You use it to help you to learn and to grow.

Education is a thing that you can have. You have it when you are around people who are interested in you. You have it when you are around people who are willing to help you to learn and to grow. Education is a thing that you can be. You be it when you are a person who is interested in learning and in growing. Education is a thing that you can do. You do it when you are a person who is willing to help other people to learn and to grow.

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